



To: Richmond City Council **Date:** March 7, 2007
From: Councillor Harold Steves **File:** 07-3070-03-01/Vol 01
Chair, Planning Committee
Re: **PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE FUNDING CUTS**

The Planning Committee, at its meeting held on March 6, 2007, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

- (1) *That a strong letter be written to the Provincial and Federal Governments stating the City's belief that long term sustainable funding for social service programs has long term benefits, and that the City advocates that the Provincial Government fully restore funding for the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program, and requesting that the Federal Government fully restore funding for the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.*
- (2) *That staff draft a recommendation with regard to the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program for submission as a UBCM resolution.*

Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Planning Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended the following:

That, as per the Manager of Policy Planning report dated February 28, 2007, the City explore the possibility of restoring the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre (RCCRRC) and/or its services, should this be required, by:

- (1) having Real Estate Services investigate the availability of City-owned buildings to accommodate the Centre;
- (2) approving a consulting budget of \$20,000 to enable the current City contracted Child Care Coordinator to consult with community stakeholders (e.g., Child Care Development Advisory Committee [lead], Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee), to determine how the Centre might be sustained;
- (3) having Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, over the longer term, consider the viability of incorporating the Centre into City community centres and community service hubs; and
- (4) forwarding this report to the City School Board Liaison Committee for information.

Staff Report

Origin

Council moved on February 12th, 2007:

- *"That a strong letter be written to the Provincial and Federal Governments protesting the cuts to child care funding, and advocating that they restore the amounts cut from surplus funds or otherwise.*
- *That the City consider ways to assist in having the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre service restored in Richmond."*

Findings Of Fact

1. Provincial Funding Cuts

On January 5, 2007, a letter was sent to child care providers from the BC Minister of State for Child Care, the Hon. Linda Reid, announcing child care funding cuts (**Attachment 1**). These cuts were based on the Federal Government's elimination of the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement that expired on March 31, 2007. The key funding cuts announced were:

- the BC Child Care Operating Fund will be decreased as of July 1, 2007, back to 2005 levels, meaning a reduction of approximately \$40 per child per month. This program will also be capped, meaning that no additional spaces will be funded (except those currently under capital development), until room within the cap becomes available;
- as of April 1, 2007, funding to the Child Care Resource & Referral Program will revert to pre-2005 levels, with further cuts to follow. By October 1, 2007, funding to Child Care Resource and Referral Centres will be reduced by 77%; and
- Provincial major capital money will not be available until Federal initiatives for providing new spaces are clear, although this does not affect currently approved funding (i.e. the \$500,000 for child care in Hamilton).

The rise in the parent eligibility threshold for child care subsidies, from an annual income of \$21,000 to \$38,000, plus an increase in the subsidy rate, will not be affected by the cuts.

2. Letter from Volunteer Richmond Information Services to Hon. Linda Reid

In a January 9, 2007 letter to the Hon. Linda Reid, Volunteer Richmond Information Services (VRIS) (**Attachment 2**) advised that, as a result of funding cuts, the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre/service which they operate will terminate operations as of March 31, 2007 (in effect closed now). VRIS also requested that any remaining funding for the Richmond program be dedicated to the development of an early childhood service hub.

3. Provincial Plans

Child Care Resource and Referral Funding

As of Tuesday February 27th 2007, the Provincial Child Care Programs and Services Branch, B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development, announced that the status of the Child Care Resource and Referral Program funding will be maintained at \$9 million on an ongoing basis and that budget and service delivery details will be made known next week (**Attachment 3**).

As the CRR Program budget was previously \$14 million, the budget has been reduced by 35%. As of the date of report writing, implications for Richmond are not yet known.

VRIS is in discussion with the Child Care Programs and Services Branch, B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development, regarding the possibility of reinstating the Richmond CRR under its auspices.

Hub Model

The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (2007/08 to 2009/10 Service Plan, February 2007) has indicated their "commitment to supporting the development of neighbourhood hubs – centres where early child development, child care and family services are co-located to meet family and community needs". The Community Child Care Resource and Referral Centres/services would fit naturally into such a hub, should funding be secured.

Staff will monitor Provincial funding and service delivery decisions regarding Child Care Resource and Referral services, hub models and implications for Richmond, and advise Council.

Analysis

1. Effects Of Funding Cuts In Richmond

Child Care Operating Fund

The full effect of cuts to the BC Child Care Operating Fund remain to be seen, but the likely result will be:

- no new non-profit child care spaces in Richmond for the foreseeable future except those currently under development,
- the possible closure of existing spaces,
- an increase in parent fees, and
- the lengthy waiting lists for child care in Richmond, as elsewhere in the Province, will at least be maintained and likely exacerbated.

Provincial Capital Funding

The elimination of any new Provincial Capital Funding will also likely mean no increase in the number of non-profit Child Care spaces in Richmond.

Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre (RCCRRC)

The most immediate effect of the Provincial funding cuts is the closure of the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre (RCCRRC) (**Attachment 4**). The Centre provided support to families seeking child care as well as to child care providers by providing information, resource materials, training, networking and recognition opportunities. The RCCRRC made over 6,000 referrals per year including parent and caregiver referrals to child care centres in Richmond to assist in securing quality child care, as well as supporting child care providers. The service had been in existence for over 15 years.

The base operating budget of the RCCRRC was \$310,00 for 2006/2007 (some additional funds were received for additional programs, e.g., United Way funded a mobile child minding service that

has been transferred to Richmond Family Place). The RCCRRC employed 8 staff (3 full-time, 5 part-time); of these positions, 2 were to be absorbed into Volunteer Richmond Information Services and 6 were to be eliminated. A Project Manager was employed to manage the closure procedures.

Closure of the Centre has significantly reduced community capacity to meet child care needs from both the parent and child care provider perspectives.

However, as of February 27th, 2007, the possibility exists that the RCCRRC may be re-instated. Volunteer Richmond Information Services advises that the space used by the RCCRRC, approximately 800 square feet, may be used for a re-instated RCCRRC or other VRIS programs.

Staff will keep Council informed of developments.

2. Restoring RCCRRC Service in Richmond

Council Referral

The February 12, 2007 Council Referral requests:

- that a letter be written to the Provincial and Federal Governments protesting the child care funding cuts and advocating that they be restored from surplus funds or otherwise, and
- that the City consider ways to assist in having the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre service restored in Richmond.

Letter

Staff are currently preparing letters to the Provincial and Federal Governments, which will be sent shortly.

Meaning of "Restoring"

"Restoring" the RCCRRC/service has been interpreted by City Staff to mean:

- securing a space from which the RCCRRC/service can operate, and
- paying for people to provide RCCRRC services.

City Options To Assist In Restoring The RCCRRC

While the following City actions may not be required, based on the Province's February 27th, 2007 announcement and announcements pending next week, a range of City actions are recommended should the RCCRRC not receive provincial funding.

The City assists community service organizations in a variety of ways:

- through the City Grants Program,
- through the Child Care Grants Program,
- by providing the use of City land and/or buildings at nominal cost,
- by providing one time funding at Council's discretion (e.g., bridge funding),
- by providing ongoing annual funding at Council's discretion,
- by providing City coordination services.

(1) City Grants Program

As the 2007 City Grants program is completed, City Grant funding for the RCCRRC is not possible in 2007.

Should the RCCRRC be resurrected before the 2008 application deadline (e.g., Oct 2007), a non-profit organization may apply for a City grant to possibly partially assist the RCCRRC in delivering its services.

(2) Child Care Grants Program

Council, with advice from the Child Care Development Advisory Committee, occasionally provides Grants to licensed, non-profit child care centres for Minor Capital Expenditures. Programs that support child care are also eligible, however the Fund cannot be used for Operating Expenses.

(3) The Use Of City Land And/Or Buildings At Nominal Cost

As of February 27th, 2007, the possibility exists that the RCCRRC funding will be reinstated (fully or partially). The Province is in discussions with VRIS regarding the potential re-opening of the centre under VRIS auspices. If this does not transpire, the Province would seek a new operator through an RFP process.

If no provincial funding is available to re-open the RCCRRC, the City may be in a position to assist with offering space at nominal cost. As City funds are not readily available to construct a new facility, available space in an existing structure, if such exists, is most appropriate.

While availability is typically very limited, it is recommended that Real Estate Services explore the possibility of providing space in an existing City building for the RCCRRC, in the event that Richmond funding is not restored. Approximately 800 square feet are required in a central location with public access and proximity to transit.

Staff also recommend that Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff explore possible future location opportunities (e.g., space within City community centres and service hubs), for this service, particularly, if the Province provides funding.

Pros:

- Providing a location for the Centre/service would constitute a significant City contribution to overall RCCRRC operating expenses (the space would be provided at a reduced rate),
- Making space available may encourage other partners (e.g., to contribute resources),
- Funding may be leveraged from other sources,
- Long-term planning to explore how to accommodate a wide range of community services is consistent with City practice and reasonable to consider.

Cons:

- Space in City-owned buildings is rarely available and may be for short-term use only,
- Long-term planning does not address short-term needs,
- The City will be “back-filling”, due to Provincial funding cuts,
- Would generate a dependency on city assistance,
- Could set an undesirable precedent.

Should the RCCRRC be resurrected before the 2008 application deadline (e.g., Oct 2007), a non-profit organization may apply for a City grant to possibly partially assist the RCCRRC in delivering its services.

(2) Child Care Grants Program

Council, with advice from the Child Care Development Advisory Committee, occasionally provides Grants to licensed, non-profit child care centres for Minor Capital Expenditures. Programs that support child care are also eligible, however the Fund cannot be used for Operating Expenses.

(3) The Use Of City Land And/Or Buildings At Nominal Cost

As of February 27th, 2007, the possibility exists that the RCCRRC funding will be reinstated (fully or partially). The Province is in discussions with VRIS regarding the potential re-opening of the centre under VRIS auspices. If this does not transpire, the Province would seek a new operator through an RFP process.

If no provincial funding is available to re-open the RCCRRC, the City may be in a position to assist with offering space at nominal cost. As City funds are not readily available to construct a new facility, available space in an existing structure, if such exists, is most appropriate.

While availability is typically very limited, it is recommended that Real Estate Services explore the possibility of providing space in an existing City building for the RCCRRC, in the event that Richmond funding is not restored. Approximately 800 square feet are required in a central location with public access and proximity to transit.

Staff also recommend that Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff explore possible future location opportunities (e.g., space within City community centres and service hubs), for this service, particularly, if the Province provides funding.

Pros:

- Providing a location for the Centre/service would constitute a significant City contribution to overall RCCRRC operating expenses (the space would be provided at a reduced rate),
- Making space available may encourage other partners (e.g., to contribute resources),
- Funding may be leveraged from other sources,
- Long-term planning to explore how to accommodate a wide range of community services is consistent with City practice and reasonable to consider.

Cons:

- Space in City-owned buildings is rarely available and may be for short-term use only,
- Long-term planning does not address short-term needs,
- The City will be “back-filling”, due to Provincial funding cuts,
- Would generate a dependency on city assistance,
- Could set an undesirable precedent.

(4) Emergency City Funding

The City has, in the past, provided Community Service Organizations with emergency funding to help ensure the continuation of services (e.g., in 2003 Council provided \$12,000 bridge funding to the Richmond Women's Resource Centre to tide them over a period of change in Provincial Funding).

Pros:

- A one-time grant may allow enough time for other funding sources to be identified.
- Helps to support Richmond families seeking child care and child care providers during an interim period.
- Is consistent with City commitment to supporting child care in Richmond.
- May be used by the RCCRRC to leverage other funding

Cons:

- With no known Provincial plans to restore CCRRC funding, and the Centre already closed, bridge funding would not be sufficient to ensure service continuation.
- The amount would have to be substantive to re-open the service.
- Staff would need to be hired by the RCCRRC with interim funding only.
- An agency would need to be found to host the service (Volunteer Richmond will consider any proposals but may not wish to re-open the service on a temporary basis).
- Discussion with the Province would need to be held to determine if funding remaining in the 2007 budget for the RCCRRC could be re-allocated to another agency, following the termination of the VRIS service. There are also undesignated funds in the Provincial Budget for child care that are to be spent by March 31, 2007 but Provincial decisions have not yet been announced.

Staff recommend that this option be explored.

(5) Base Budget Funding

Currently, the City provides ongoing support for the Disability Resource Centre and the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society in the City's base budget.

The City could also provide base budget funding for the RCCRRC.

Pros:

Ongoing Base Budget Funding would ensure that Richmond residents and Child Care providers continue to receive a critical service in a consistent manner.

Cons:

- The City does not generally fund community services on an ongoing basis.
- Providing ongoing City funds would constitute an acceptance of provincial downloading at a cost to the City.
- Funding the RCCRRC may open the door to further Provincial service cuts by indicating Richmond's willingness to take on the service.

- Other services cut-back by the Provincial Government have not been taken on by the City.
- The ongoing overall cost for reduced Provincial services in Richmond could be prohibitive.
- As the Provincial Plan for providing CCRRCs will not be known until October 1, 2007, Richmond child care and funding needs may change at that point.

Therefore City staff recommend that the City not provide City funding for the RCCRRC from the City's base budget.

(6) Coordination

Community stakeholders may be able to assist in the continuation of the RCCRRC's services. A more thorough examination of available and potential community resources is required. The City may assist by coordinating consultation with stakeholders such as Richmond Health Services, the School Board, community agencies (e.g., those interested in developing an Early Childhood Services Hub) and funders. For example, Volunteer Richmond wants to be part of the discussions and may have space. It is recommended that the Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) lead, and the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC) assist, in playing an advisory role in this process.

To ensure coordination and as City staff are busy with existing priorities, City staff recommend that \$20,000 be provided to augment the contract of the existing Child Care Coordinator. Reporting to city staff, and assisting the CCDAC in exploring coordination options, the Child Care Coordinator would:

- assist City staff and CCDAC in leading stakeholder discussions and discussing options
- meet with stakeholders to discuss options and their abilities to provide space and/or services,
- monitor provincial initiatives to assist in representing the City's interest to the Province,
- when in October 2007, the Province announces the new child care funding program, assess the program for applicability to Richmond and the restoration of the Richmond Resource and Referral Centre or services, and
- provide information, options and recommendation to stakeholders, staff and Council as appropriate.

Pros:

- Other stakeholders may be able to offer resources on a partnership basis to sustain this service.
- If other resources are identified through the Community Consultation Process whereby the CCRRC could be sustained, a one-time funding allocation from the City may be useful.
- As Provincial plans are still unfolding, the community will be in a better position to access any funds that might come available if a Community Consultation Process is already underway.
- Provides opportunity for partnerships to be developed to sustain a critical service in Richmond.

Cons:

- A one-time cost to the City of \$20,000 in 2007 to enable the current City contracted Child Care Coordinator to assist with the co-ordination, as City staff are completing existing City work priorities.

Note: The City's contracted Child Care Coordinator is fully occupied by the terms of her current contract (e.g., Hamilton Child Care Centre) but has indicated her availability should additional contract funding be made available.

Summary

As of February 27th, 2007, the Province has announced ongoing funding of the CCRR program at 65% of its former budget. Budget and service delivery information will be announced next week. Implications for Richmond are not yet known. Staff will keep Council informed.

In summary, to explore restoring the RCCRRC, should this be necessary, it is recommended that:

- Real Estate Services investigate the availability of City-owned sites to house this Centre/services,
- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department examine the viability of incorporating this Centre/services into City community centres and hubs,
- Policy Planning, with consultant assistance and lead advice from the Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) and assistance from the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC), coordinate community stakeholder consultations, to determine if and how the Centre/service may be restored in Richmond, based on available resources and future policy decisions by Senior Governments.

Once the viability of restoring the Centre/service through partnerships has been further explored, including provincial agencies, Council may wish to consider how best to assist.

Providing these supports to the RCCRRC would be consistent with the City's Child Care Policy 4017 (**Attachment 5**), for example:

- the City acknowledges that quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community for residents, employers and employees
- the City will plan, partner and, as resources and budgets become available, support a range of quality, affordable child care support resources
- the City is committed to being an active partner with senior governments, stakeholders, parents, the private and co-operative sectors and the community, to develop and maintain a quality and affordable comprehensive child care system in Richmond
- the City will support resources for child care providers as advised by the Child Care Development Advisory Committee and as the need requires and budgets become available.

It is also consistent with Council's February, 2005 endorsement of the vision for "Richmond to be the best place in North America to raise children and youth".

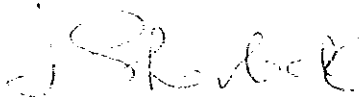
Financial Impact

- \$20,000 in 2007, to enable the existing child care consultant to assist with the co-ordination work.
- \$20,000 is available in the Council Contingency Fund and may be used for this purpose.

Conclusion

Staff recommend that to explore restoring the RCCRRC (should this be required):

- City sites be explored,
- the incorporation of the Centre/service into City community centres and service hubs be considered, and
- the City contract with the current Child Care Coordinator to coordinate community stakeholder consultation, to determine the viability of sustaining this Centre/service on a partnership basis.



Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner
(4220)

LS:cas



January 5, 2007

Ref: 160256

Dear members of the Child Care Community:

As you are aware, the federal government has decided to eliminate the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) agreement and instead, flow money directly to parents through the Universal Child Care Benefit. The expiration of the ELCC agreement on March 31, 2007 represents a loss to BC of more than \$455 million in federal funding over the next three years. Obviously, this presents the province with a challenge.

Moving forward, we want to ensure that we come up with the best possible solution for BC families and this requires a thoughtful approach. To that end, maintaining programs and services that support the most vulnerable children and families has been the key consideration in our decision-making process.

In October of 2005, our government enhanced the Provincial Child Care Subsidy Program by increasing the income threshold from \$21,000 to \$38,000 to qualify for subsidy, while the amount of subsidy was also increased by an average of 15 per cent for families. These enhancements to the Subsidy Program, which currently supports about 25,000 families and represent an annual investment of \$126 million, are a priority and will be maintained on an ongoing basis. As well, the \$100 a month per child Universal Child Care Benefit that all parents are now receiving will not be considered as income when determining eligibility for child care subsidy.

Over the last two years the Supported Child Development Program has been enhanced with an additional \$16.5 million in annual funding to improve access to regulated child care and reduce wait times for children with special needs. This program, which currently benefits more than 5,500 children with special needs, is also a priority of this government. As such, current service levels and enhancements associated with this program will be maintained on an ongoing basis.

A large part of the federal ELCC funding for this fiscal year has been dedicated to funding the enhancements in the Subsidy Program, Supported Child Development Program, Child Care Operating Funding Program (CCOF), Child Care Resource and Referral Program (CCRAs) and the Child Care Capital Funding Program which helped create almost 1,500 new child care spaces last year alone. Forty million dollars in ELCC funding will be made available to current CCOF funded providers to allow for quality improvement investments in, for example, professional development, minor capital improvements, equipment or supplies. Details about how this funding will be distributed will be communicated in the near future.

.../2

A decision has also been made to maintain current funding levels for the Child Care Operating Funding Program (CCOF) through to the end of June 2007, so parents can have greater child care cost-certainty until the end of the current school year. As of July 1, 2007 however, CCOF funding rates will return to pre-ELCC levels. To put this change in perspective, the average rate reduction will be about \$2 per enrolled child per day or about \$40 per month; at the same time, the Universal Child Care Benefit is providing \$100 per month to parents. Child care providers currently receiving funding under CCOF will receive their application renewal package and funding agreement for the 2007/2008 year in the near future. This will include specific details regarding the revised rate structure.

While we will continue to accept funding applications from new child care providers and those who are expanding their spaces, the CCOF program will be implementing a program intake cap, effective immediately. This means that anyone currently funded under the program will continue to receive funding in 2007/2008, as will new spaces that will be opening as a result of capital development underway, previously approved major capital funding or those eligible applications already submitted. Otherwise, new applicants will be processed for CCOF when room becomes available within the cap, which will be based on the current regional allocation of spaces and type of care provided. Full details will be provided with the new funding agreements for 2007/2008 and will be posted on the ministry Web site at: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare. The cap will remain in effect until such time as there is more clarity around Ottawa's Child Care Spaces Initiative and how the federal government plans to fund new spaces.

The federal Child Care Spaces Initiative was proposed to create 125,000 child care spaces nationally. Until Ottawa provides details of this plan and how it intends to fund this initiative, provincial major capital funding will not be available. Provincial minor capital funding will be continued and details will be provided at: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/capital.htm#minor.

Funding levels for the Child Care Resource and Referral Program will be maintained through the end of the current fiscal year. But again, as a result of the cancellation of the Early Learning and Child Care agreement, as of April 1, 2007, the budget for this program will revert to pre-ELCC levels and subsequently will be reduced further in order for the province to sustain the investments that support vulnerable children and families, as noted above. We will engage in a process of further transition with CCRRs and develop alternative ways of providing services.

Our goal – and I know this is a goal shared by many British Columbians – is to create a quality, flexible child care system that works for BC families, that supports our most vulnerable children, and that is sustainable over the long term. With that in mind, I would encourage you to share this correspondence with parents or families who are served by the child care system.

Yours with kindest regards,



Linda Reid
Minister of State

Sherlock, Lesley

From: Carlile, Cathryn
Sent: Wednesday, 10 January 2007 8:08 AM
To: Sherlock, Lesley
Subject: FW: Richmond CCRR
Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Specht [mailto:especht@Volunteerrichmond.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 January 2007 5:01 PM
To: linda.reid.mla@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Minister.MCF@gems1.gov.bc.ca; MCF.DeputyMinsterOffice@gov.bc.ca; alan.markwart@gov.bc.ca; olga.ilich.mla@leg.bc.ca; john.yap.mla@leg.bc.ca; mmccoy@touchfam.ca; Belinda.boyd@vch.ca; dmacdonald@cmha-rmd.com; Deborah.Rhymer@gov.bc.ca; nadene.speed@gov.bc.ca; news@richmondreview.com; dbroughton@richmond-news.com; MayorandCouncillors
Subject: Richmond CCRR
Importance: High

The Honourable Linda Reid, MLA
Minister of State for Childcare
By email: linda.reid.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Reid,

Volunteer Richmond Information Services (VRIS) was disappointed in the January 5, 2007, announcement from your Ministry regarding changes in funding and service delivery for childcare and support programs in our province. As a responsible employer and community service provider, the only respectful alternative for our staff and organization is to discontinue the Richmond Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) service as of March 31st, 2007, rather than have staff and clients live with the uncertainty of an extended closure. I attach a resolution to this effect approved by the VRIS Board of Directors.

I would also like to use this correspondence to ask you for clarification of some matters that either arose or were not touched on in the January 5th conference call with Ministry staff. First, VRIS would like information on your plans for Richmond with respect to remaining CCRR funding. We would recommend that the assets developed in this valued program be re-invested in the Hub Model Concept about which you have so often spoken. As you are aware, VRIS is involved in a strong partnership with other community service providers and would like to suggest a continuation of discussions with you and our colleagues on how that could be realized.

Second, Ministry staff committed during the conference call to providing assistance for the transition, namely that the Ministry would absorb transition and closure costs. VRIS looks forward to hearing from you or your staff regarding these matters.

Sincerely,

2007-01-29

Elizabeth Specht
Executive Director
Volunteer Richmond Information Services

cc: **The Honourable Tom Christensen, Minister of Children & Family Development**

By email: Minister.MCF@gems1.gov.bc.ca

Lesley du Toit, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children & Family Development

By E-mail: MCF.DeputyMinistersOffice@gov.bc.ca

Alan Markwart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children & Family Development

By email: alan.markwart@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Olga Ilich, Minister of Tourism, Sports & the Arts

By email: olga.ilich.mla@leg.bc.ca

John Yap, MLA Richmond-Steveston

By email: john.yap.mla@leg.bc.ca

Michael McCoy, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council

By email: mmccoy@touchfam.ca

Belinda Boyd, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council

By email: Belinda.boyd@vch.ca

Dave MacDonald, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council

By email: dmacdonald@cmha-rmd.com

Deborah Rhymer, Director, Child Care Programs and Services, Ministry of Children & Family Development.

By E-mail: Deborah.Rhymer@gov.bc.ca

Nadene Speed, Coordinator, Child Care Resource & Referral Programs, Ministry of Children & Family Development

By E-mail: nadene.speed@gov.bc.ca

Richmond Review

By email: news@richmondreview.com

Richmond News

By email: dbroughton@richmond-news.com

Mayor Malcolm Brodie, City of Richmond

Councillor Linda Barnes, City of Richmond

Councillor Cynthia Chen, City of Richmond

Councillor Derek Dang, City of Richmond

Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt, City of Richmond

Councillor Sue Halsey-Brandt, City of Richmond

Councillor Rob Howard, City of Richmond

Councillor Bill McNulty, City of Richmond

Councillor Harold Steves, City of Richmond

By email: mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca

Resolution of the Board of Directors of Volunteer Richmond Information Services
adopted on January 9, 2007

Whereas the Government of British Columbia has announced severe funding cuts to the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program as of April 1, 2007, and further severe cuts as of October 1, 2007, blaming the Government of Canada, and

Whereas the Government of British Columbia previously cut funding to the CCRR program but later reversed this decision, and

Whereas the Government of British Columbia apparently has no plan to sustain this program, and

Whereas Volunteer Organizations and their employees cannot provide programs effectively in periods of great uncertainty.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Volunteer Richmond Information Services (VRIS) plan for the termination of the VRIS CCRR Program as of March 31, 2007, and

A copy of this resolution be sent to the Government of British Columbia, to all relevant Governments at all levels, to relevant organizations, to our membership and all interested parties.

Sherlock, Lesley

Subject: FW: Important Notice re: Child Care Resource and Referral Programs

Importance: High

From: Speed, Nadene MCF:EX [mailto:Nadene.Speed@gov.bc.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2007 4:09 PM

To: Bill Dartnell - Langley/ Walnut Grove; Debbie Vincze - YMCA - BNWTC; Joy Cox - Mission; Karen Norman - CC Options; Maclynne Bourquin - Hope; Thelma Schrock - Abbotsford; Vicki Kipps - MRPM; XT:HLTH Cuthbertson, Dale; Carolyn Duncan - Revelstoke; Colin Reid - Kamloops; Connie Barlow - Golden; Deb Jarvis - West Kootenay; Diane Enwistle - Vernon; Gail Lavery - Trail; Gwen Noble - East Kootenay/Elk Valley; Irene Willsie - Williams Lake; Kim Lyster - Penticton; Linda Burrows - Boundary; Lynn Burgat - Kelowna; Lynne Wickett - Shuswap; Randy Barichello - 100 Mile House; Carrie Kluss - Smithers; Deborah Pearson - QCI; Patricia Hamilton - South Peace/ North Peace; Patti Barnes- Skeena/Kitimat; Sharron Hill - Quesnel; Shirley Duchsher- Prince Rupert; Simon Adams - Prince George; Dianne Liscumb- Vancouver/Wstcst; Elizabeth Specht - Richmond; Karen Isaac - BCAACS; Li Boesen - North Shore; Lois Wynne - Sea to Sky; Vicki Dobbyn - Sunshine Coast/Gibsons; Doug Orr - Cowichan Valley; Liz Bloomfield - Victoria; Nina Linguanti - Sooke; Shirley Phillips - PacificCARE/ Courtenay

Subject: Important Notice re: Child Care Resource and Referral Programs

Importance: High

Dear member of the child care community,

As you know, the federal government's elimination of the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement presented the province with a serious challenge.

The loss of \$455 million in federal funding over the next three years means that the province will need to refocus its provincial child care budget to protect significant enhancements made to services and programs that support our most vulnerable children and families. To that end, the province has protected the \$126M Provincial Child Care Subsidy Program that supports 25,000 children in low and middle income families and the \$54M Supported Child Development Program which supports 5,500 special needs children.

One aspect of child care service delivery that has been a subject of discussion in recent weeks is the status of the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program. The Minister of State for Child Care, Linda Reid has outlined the best case when it comes to the annual CCRR budget. The goal was to maintain the \$9 million annual budget.

The government confirms that the \$9 million provincial CCRR budget will be maintained on an ongoing basis. Budget and service delivery details will be communicated to CCRRs next week.

Lenora Angel
Executive Director
Child Care Programs and Services



Volunteer
Richmond Information
Services

For Volunteers
For Organizations
Become a Member



[About Us](#) | [Volunteer Centre](#) | [Child Care Resource + Referral](#) | [Information + Referral](#) | [Seniors Programs](#) | [Christmas Fund](#)



Child Care Resource + Referral Centre

Because we're here ... families and child care providers have support.

As advocates and stewards of quality child care in Richmond, Volunteer Richmond Information Services also understands how vital it is that families find the child care program that matches the needs of their family and child. Our purpose is to provide families with information to meet their individual needs, and child care providers with the training, materials, support and information to provide nurturing, safe, quality programs.

Resource Centre staff make over 5000 referrals to child care facilities each year linking families with care centres, and respond to hundreds of general inquiries through the Family Information Line.

We provide a One-stop Program for Child Care Providers where they can borrow resources, activity boxes, start-up equipment and other materials for use with children in their programs. Through training and professional development workshops, providers are offered opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills in early childhood care and education.

Celebrating the vital work done by child care providers is part of our advocacy - during Child Care Month in May and throughout the year. Our High Five Awards recognize individuals and groups who have made a significant contribution to child care in Richmond.

For information about other Child Care Resource & Referral Centres in the Vancouver Coastal Region, [click here](#).

Funding for the Richmond Child Care Resource & Referral Centre is provided through British Columbia's Ministry of Children & Family Development.



#190-7000 Minoru Blvd. Richmond, BC V6Y 3Z5

Tel: 604-279-7020 Fax: 604-279-7038

Info@volunteerrichmond

© 2005 Designed by OPACITY Design Group Ltd.



POLICY

It is Council policy that:

1. General

The City of Richmond acknowledges that quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community for residents, employers and employees.

2. Planning

To address child care needs, the City will plan, partner and, as resources and budgets become available, support a range of quality, affordable child care:

- facilities
- spaces
- programming
- equipment
- support resources.

3. Partnerships

- The City of Richmond is committed to being an active partner with senior governments, stakeholders, parents, the private and co-operative sectors, and the community, to develop and maintain a quality and affordable comprehensive child care system in Richmond.
- Advise regarding establishing child care facilities for workers and students at institutions and workplaces (e.g., Richmond Hospital, Workers Compensation Board).
- To request the Senior Governments and other stakeholders to provide ongoing funding for affordable child care facilities, spaces, operations and programming.

4. Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC)

The City will establish and support the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee.

5. Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund

The City will establish and administer a Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund, to financially assist with:

- establishing child care facilities and spaces:
 - in City buildings and on City land,
 - in private developments
 - in senior government projects
- community partner projects.



- undertaking child care research (e.g., need assessments) and planning,
- acquiring sites for lease to non-profit societies for child care,
- hiring child care consultants and staff, as authorized by Council,
- providing child care equipment grants
- a variety of initiatives to achieve quality and affordable child care in the City.

6. Development Applications

To develop City child care policies and guidelines, and use Council's powers and negotiations in the development approval process, to achieve child care targets and objectives.

7. Child Care Grants Policy

Through City child care grants, support child care:

- facilities
- spaces
- programming
- equipment
- professional support.

8. Professional Child Care Support Resources

Support resources for child care providers as advised by the Child Care Development Advisory Committee and as the need requires and budgets become available.

9. Policy Reviews

- From time to time, review child care policies, regulations and procedures to ensure that no undue barriers exist to the development of child care.
- As appropriate, develop targets for the required number, type and location of child care services in Richmond.

10. Area Plans

Ensure that area plans contain effective child care policies.

11. Information

The City will, with advice from the Child Care Development Advisory Committee,

- generate, consolidate and analyze information to facilitate the development of child care facilities, programs and non-profit child care agencies;
- determine if any City land holdings are appropriate to be made available for immediate use as child care facilities;
- review and where appropriate, improve and provide City produced public information material on child care.



12. Promotion

- Declare the month of May "Child Care Month" and support awareness and fund-raising activities during that month.

13. Partnerships

- Employers
 - Encourage employer involvement in child care.
- Developers
 - Encourage the developers to provide land and facilities for child care programs throughout the City.
- Community Associations
 - Encourage City staff and the Council of Community Associations to:
 - assess whether or not child care services can be improved in community centres,
 - provide enhanced child care programs in current and future community centres.
- Intercultural
 - Encourage the Richmond intercultural Committee to investigate and report on the child care concerns, needs and problems facing ethnocultural groups in the City.
- School Board
 - Co-ordinate CCDAC activities with the Richmond School Board.
 - Encourage the Richmond School District to involve schools in the provision of child care services.
 - Encourage child care centre facilities to be integrated with schools, as appropriate.

14. Child Care Facilities

- Encourage adequate child care centre facilities throughout the City where needed, particularly in each new community.
- Consider providing City land and facilities for child care programs throughout the City,
- Encourage child care program expansion through the enhancement of existing community facilities.